



## **MEMORANDUM ON COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING**

### **OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN TONY CÁRDENAS**

In addition to programmatic and language-based appropriations requests this year, the House Appropriations Committee has announced that it will also accept requests for Community Project Funding in Fiscal Year 2023. This process is a way for Members of Congress to bring direct support to their district by requesting funding that goes directly to their state or local government, or eligible non-profit recipients. These projects will be funded on a limited basis, and each Member of Congress will be able to submit 15 requests. This means that my office can only select the most competitive requests for funding that meet all guidelines. The general requirements and accounts available for requests are described below. All requests are due by April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. An application document can be downloaded at my website: <https://cardenas.house.gov/>.

#### **What is the difference between Programmatic and Language requests and Community Project Funding Requests?**

- *Programmatic* – general support or funding for a program.
- *Language* – a request to add language to the bill or report to accompany the bill which generally does not include dollar amounts.
- *Community Project Funding* – directs funds to a specific state or local government or eligible non-profit recipient.

Programmatic and Language requests are covered by the traditional appropriations process, and can be submitted here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc51D-JoM--s3IGjBEUtAamT-X\\_oe92TOchSH1v-z4JSZCmPA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc51D-JoM--s3IGjBEUtAamT-X_oe92TOchSH1v-z4JSZCmPA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

This memo will only cover Community Project Funding, which must be submitted to our office via a downloadable form available on my website.

#### ***Requirements for Projects:***

##### **Community Support**

- Successful Community Project Funding requests must be able demonstrate a high degree of community support
- Examples include:

- Letters of support from elected community leaders (e.g. mayors or other officials)
- Press articles highlighting the need for the requested Community Project Funding;
- Support from newspaper editorial boards;
- Projects listed on State intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents; or
- Resolutions passed by city councils or boards.

#### **Financial Disclosure**

- No successful Community Project Funding Request can have any financial tie to the Member of Congress or their immediate family

#### **Member Requirement to Post All Requests Online**

- Members are required to post Community Project Funding requests on their house.gov websites at the time the request is made to the Committee. The information posted must include:
  - The proposed recipient
  - The address of the recipient
  - The amount of the request
  - An explanation of the request, including purpose, and a justification for why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds
  - The Member's signed certification letter stating there is no financial interest in the project
- Successful applications will have this information be made public

#### **What criteria will be used to evaluate Community Project Funding requests?**

- **Ban on For-Profit recipients.** There is a ban on directing Community Project Funding to for-profit entities.
- **Matching requirements.** Several Federal programs eligible for Community Project Funding requests require a State or local match for projects either by statute or according to longstanding policy. The House will not waive these matching requirements for Community Project Funding requests. It is important that applicants have the ability to meet matching requirements prior to requesting a project. Note: This does not mean that matching funds must be in-hand prior to requesting a project, but successful requests must have a plan to meet such requirements in order for such a project to be viable.
- **One-year funding.** Each project request must be for fiscal year 2023 funds only and cannot include a request for multiyear funding.
- **State, local or Tribal governmental entities as grantees.** Members may consider public entities as primary grantees to oversee the completion of the project.
- **Non-profits as grantees.** If the applicant is a non-profit organization, they will need to provide evidence that the recipient is a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Further, many water projects often partner with non-profit entities to complete projects. Therefore, projects may also be directed to non-profits with an inherently governmental function.

### What additional items should I be aware of related to Community Project Funding requests?

- **Cap on Overall Funding.** The Committee will limit Community Project Funding to no more than 1 percent of discretionary spending.
- **“Support” vs. “Request” for a project.** Anything short of a formal request to the database will not be considered for inclusion in a fiscal year 2023 appropriations bill.
- **Letters of Support.** Every time a Member signs on to a letter demonstrating support for a project the Member should append an accompanying disclosure certifying to the Chair and Ranking Member that there is no financial interest in the project. This is to ensure the highest ethical standards in the Community Project Funding process.
- **Lobbyists, donors and other affiliated parties.** While Members are required to certify to the Committee that neither they nor their immediate family have a financial interest in a proposed project, Members should also be fully aware of any other financial aspects or relationships associated with the proposed project that might raise ethical concerns. These include but are not limited to lobbyists, donors, or other affiliated parties that have an interest in the project.
- **“One-stop” webpage for the public.** The Appropriations Committee will maintain a website with links to all House Members’ appropriations project requests to help the public easily view them.
- **Transparency / Early Public Disclosure.** Per House rules, each bill’s Committee report will include a list identifying each community project that has been funded in the bill along with the name of the Member requesting it. Each Subcommittee will make such lists public at the time of their Subcommittee markup.

### What projects are eligible?

Only certain accounts will be available for Community Project Funding in each subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. For FY22, CPF was available for 32 accounts. A summary of the available subcommittees is listed below.

For detailed information about which factors the Appropriations Committee will consider, please review the Committee’s guidelines [here](#). If you require any additional assistance, please contact Ella Khorov at [ella.khorov@mail.house.gov](mailto:ella.khorov@mail.house.gov) or Osvaldo Ramirez at [osvaldo.ramirez@mail.house.gov](mailto:osvaldo.ramirez@mail.house.gov), or call my office at (202) 225-6131.

FY23 Accounts:

Only certain accounts are available for Community Project Funding in each subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. The available accounts are as below:

#### Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies

- [Department of Transportation – Transit Infrastructure Projects](#)
- [Department of Transportation – Highway Infrastructure Projects](#)
- [Department of Transportation - Airport Improvement Program \(AIP\)](#)
- [Department of Housing and Urban Development - Economic Development Initiative \(EDI\)](#)

#### [Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies](#)

- Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities
- Rural Development, Rural Community Facility Grants
- Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Grants
- Department of Agriculture Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

#### [Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations](#)

- Military Construction accounts under the Department of Defense:
  - Army
  - Navy and Marine Corps
  - Air Force
  - Defense-Wide
  - Army National Guard
  - Air National Guard
  - Army Reserve
  - Navy Reserve
  - Air Force Reserve

#### [Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies](#)

- Corps of Engineers:
  - Investigations
  - Construction
  - Mississippi River and Tributaries
  - Operation and Maintenance
- Bureau of Reclamation:
  - Water and Related Resources
- Department of Energy
  - Topics include:
    - energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation
    - cybersecurity, energy security, emergency response
    - electricity, energy storage
    - nuclear energy
    - fossil energy, carbon management, critical minerals

#### [Financial Services and General Government Appropriations](#)

- General Services Administration, Federal Buildings Fund - New Construction, Major Repairs and Alterations and Basic Repairs Accounts
- National Archives and Records Administration, National Historical Publication and Records Commission
- Small Business Administration, Small Business Initiatives

#### [Interior, Environment and Related Agencies](#)

- Save America's Treasures (SAT) through the National Park Service

- Federal land acquisitions through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (Note: The Subcommittee will accept requests for these community projects after the release of the full President's budget.).
- Environmental Protection Agency State and Tribal Assistance Grants for certain water infrastructure projects.
- Certain State and Private Forestry projects within the U.S. Forest Service.

#### Homeland Security

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants
- Emergency Operations Center Grants

#### Defense

- Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Army
- Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Navy
- Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Air Force
- Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Space Force
- Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Defense-Wide

#### Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

- Byrne Justice Assistance Grants
- COPS Technology and Equipment
- NIST Construction of Research Facilities—Extramural Construction [NEW]
- NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS) [NEW]
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration--Operations, Research, and Facilities
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration--Safety, Security and Mission Services

#### Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

- Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services
- Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration—Program Management
- Department of Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support
- Department of Education—Innovation and Improvement
- Department of Education—Higher Education
- Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Community project funding